

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Prince William County Courthouse

other names/site number: Old Manassas Courthouse VDHR #076-5080

2. Location

street & number 9248 Lee Avenue not for publication N/A

city or town Manassas vicinity _____

state Virginia code VA county Prince William code 76 Zip 20110

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide x locally. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

____ entered in the National Register

____ See continuation sheet.

____ determined eligible for the
National Register

____ See continuation sheet.

____ determined not eligible for the National Register

____ removed from the National Register

____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Romanesque _____

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation STONE: Sandstone

roof ASPHALT _____

wall BRICK; STONE: Sandstone

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)Architecture _____Politics/Government _____

**U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

Prince William County Courthouse
Prince William County, VA

Period of Significance 1892-1954

Significant Dates 1892-93
1911

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder Teague, James C., Architect
Marye, Philip T., Architect

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

x previously listed in the National Register – Contributing building in the Manassas, VA Historic District

____ previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

x State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

x Local government

University

x Other - Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center for Genealogy and Local History, Bull Run Regional Library

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.3

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing

1 18/284827/429227

3

Zone Easting Northing

2

4 _____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Prince William County Courthouse
Prince William County, VA

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Robert C. Bainbridge, Historic Preservation PlannerOrganization: Prince William County, Virginia date: 08/21/03street & number: 1 County Complex Court telephone: 703-792-7359city or town: Prince William, VA state: VA zip code: 22192

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Prince William Board of County Supervisorsstreet & number 1 County Complex Court telephone 703-792-6830city or town Prince William state VA zip code 22192

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Prince William County Courthouse
Prince William County, VA**

Section 7 Page 1

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Prince William County Courthouse is a two-story polychromatic Victorian Romanesque style building, completed in 1893 and sits on 2.3 acres in the City of Manassas, Virginia. It was designed by architects James C. Teague and Philip Thorton Mayre of Norfolk and Newport News. Mayre later moved to Atlanta and became very successful there. The building is two stories and basically square, measuring fifty-two feet by sixty feet. Colors and textures in the details of the building are created by belt courses of rusticated sandstone and molded brick. Rusticated stone is used in the exposed foundation, a large semi-circular stone arch forming the main entrance, lintels above the windows, and belt courses defining the first and second floors and the cornice of the building. The walls of the building are predominantly red brick with a light red wash added during the recent restoration (2000-2001). The roof is hipped. The three-bay front façade of the building is symmetrical with a projecting central bay forming a three-story clock tower topped with a cupola. Five pairs of windows are placed across the front façade, with matching pairs symmetrically located in the east and west bays. The ground-floor window pairs are shorter and rectangular, while the second-floor windows are much taller and arched, reaching up to the belt courses of stone under the eave. The one-over-one sash windows are topped with square stone lintels on the ground floor and semi-circular arches on the second floor.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The walls of Prince William County Courthouse are predominantly red brick with a light red wash added during the recent restoration (2000-2001). The colors and textures on the building are created by belt courses of rusticated sandstone and molded brick. The rusticated stone is used in the exposed foundation, a large semi-circular stone arch forming the main entrance, lintels above the windows, and belt courses defining the first and second floors and the cornice of the building.

The three-bay façade of the building is symmetrical with a projecting central bay forming a three-story clock tower. The tower is supported by a stone entrance arch that flares at the bottom giving an appearance of added strength. The second floor of the tower has paired windows with

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Prince William County Courthouse
Prince William County, VA**

Section 7 Page 2

transoms and the third level has an arched louvered opening, supported by an ornamental semi-circular scalloped metal scupper. The tower is topped with a graceful eight-sided cupola over alternating clock faces (4) and arched louvers (4). The cupola is covered with an eight-sided metal roof tapering first in convex and then in concave sections to form a mast point for a weather vane finial (now missing). An early photograph of the building shows a metal crest rail along the top of the tower and surrounding the base of the cupola.

Five pairs of windows are placed across the front façade, with matching pairs symmetrically located in the east and west bays. The ground-floor window pairs are shorter and rectangular, while the second-floor windows are much taller and arched, reaching up to the belt courses of stone under the eave. The one-over-one sash windows are topped with square stone lintels on the ground floor and semi-circular arches on the second floor. The tall windows on the second floor provide ample light and air for the second-floor courtroom.

The hipped roof is covered in modern asphalt shingles that replaced the original slate. Two molded-brick chimneys rise from the east and west sides of the roof.

The eight-paneled, Queen Anne-style double door on the front entrance is recessed behind a large stone arch. Panels flanking either side of the door were used for posting notices that could be protected in the recess. An arched multi-light transom sits above the door.

Interior

Inside the front entrance is a T-shaped arrangement of halls. A central hall extends the length of the first floor to a rear stair. The main stair hall extends across the front portion of the building, flanked on each side by matching stairs. The stairs lead to a large hall/ante-room outside the main courtroom on the second floor.

The first floor originally was divided into the Clerk of the Court offices on the west side of the central hall and a courtroom on the east side. It now has a series of offices on each side, used by the Clerk of the Court. The offices are entered through tall paneled doors with transoms. The offices have single or paired windows that are tall and narrow, nearly extending up to the twelve-foot ceiling height.

Section 7 Page 3

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Prince William County Courthouse
Prince William County, VA**

The second-floor hall is filled with light from tall arched windows on the front of the building and at the ends of the hall over each set of stairs. The ceiling on the second floor is seventeen feet high. An original brass gaslight fixture remaining over one of the stairs was reproduced during the 2000 restoration for the matching stair.

The large, second-floor courtroom (thirty-by-fifty feet) is entered through double doors. This room has two pairs of tall arched windows on the east and west elevations and two doors along the back wall that lead to the back stairs, judges' chambers, and offices. The ceiling in this room is covered in square-patterned, pressed tin. The floor was originally wood, then covered with tiles in the 1960s. In the 2000 restoration, the floor was covered with a patterned wall-to-wall carpet that is appropriate to the 1890s. The original courtroom furniture and fixtures were removed during the 1960s alterations. These have not been replaced in favor of keeping this room open and flexible for various types of community functions. There was a smaller, less distinguished courtroom on the first floor that is now used for Clerk of the Court offices along with the remaining rooms on the first floor.

The interior finishes of the building have recently been restored as closely as possible to their original appearance, including the earth-tone colors popular in the latter part of the Victorian period. During the 1960s the interior was altered with coverings of paneling, linoleum tiles, paint, and drop acoustical tile ceilings that luckily proved to have hidden, rather than damaged the original finishes. The original chest-high tongue-and-groove wainscot on the walls in the public spaces (halls and courtroom) are now revealed and painted in the dark brown color indicated in the paint analysis conducted prior to the beginning of the restoration work. Otherwise, the walls and ceilings are plastered and were repaired with plaster in the 2000-2001 restoration and painted as original to the building.

Landscape

Prince William County Courthouse sits on 2.3 acres of land which includes the original courthouse square located within the City of Manassas surrounded by Prince William County, Virginia. A non-contributing one-story, brick Colonial Revival-style annex to the courthouse, constructed in 1975, is closely located to the west and north sides of the building.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Prince William County Courthouse
Prince William County, VA**

An early photograph shows that the courthouse grounds were enclosed with a decorative iron fence and gate (now removed), and planted with at least six rows of closely spaced silver maple trees. A few of the original maple trees remain in their respective rows. The main sidewalk up to the front entrance was red sandstone, which has been replaced by concrete.

The courthouse grounds are characterized by open grassy areas with a scattering of trees, as stated above, as well as a monument at the intersection of Grant and Lee Avenues, discussed in the historical significance section of this document.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Prince William County Courthouse
Prince William County, VA**

Section 8 Page 5

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Prince William County Courthouse sits on 2.3 acres of land in the City of Manassas, Virginia surrounded by Prince William County in the northeastern part of the state. Of the six courthouses built in Prince William County, the subject courthouse is the fifth in the line and now stands as the second oldest courthouse remaining in the county. Its period of significance was between 1892 and 1954. However, the building continued to be actively used as a county courthouse until 1984. Prince William County Courthouse is a rare example in the county of late Victorian Romanesque-style architecture. It reflects a bold decision by the Board of County Supervisors when so many of the buildings in this region of Virginia tended to be influenced more by the classical styles. The Board of County Supervisors first considered and then rejected a Colonial Revival-style building. The courthouse and matching jail that once stood about 25 yards to the northwest were designed by the Norfolk and Newport News architecture firm of James C. Teague and Philip T. Marye and were constructed in 1892-93. The jail was demolished in 1986.

Historical Background

The fifth Prince William County Courthouse followed a long history of earlier courthouses, beginning with the first, constructed in 1731 on a hill above the Occoquan River at Woodbridge. The second courthouse was moved closer to the center of Prince William County when Fairfax County was established in 1742. Then, when Fauquier County was formed from Prince William County in 1759, the influential citizens of Dumfries were successful in having a new courthouse constructed there in 1762. With the demise of Dumfries as a shipping center and population growth to the west, a fourth courthouse was constructed in Brentsville in 1822, again closer to the center of the county. Only the Brentsville and Manassas courthouses remain today.

In 1892, Prince William County moved its seat of government from the rural hamlet of Brentsville to the town of Manassas with its location along two railroads. The Orange and Alexandria and Manassas Gap railroads had intersected there since the 1850s, so the Manassas Junction was destined to develop as a commercial hub.

Citizens and tavern owners in Brentsville, however, were successful in keeping the county seat in place as there had been previous unsuccessful attempts to effect a move to Manassas, beginning

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Prince William County Courthouse
Prince William County, VA**

Section 8 Page 6

in 1872. Citizens in the area of Manassas Junction asked the Virginia General Assembly to order a referendum for the removal of the courthouse from Brentsville. The referendum was so ordered and the outcome of the vote was to keep it in Brentsville. The General Assembly ordered a second referendum in 1888, which resulted in an outcome again in favor of Brentsville. Undaunted, the Manassas town leaders arranged for a third referendum just four years later. The decision was finally made in 1892 in favor of Manassas. The inconvenience of Brentsville to the railroad and the increasing importance of railroads were deciding factors. In addition, the Manassas Town Council had offered to oversee the raising of funds and management of the construction of the courthouse and jail.¹

The Town Council issued \$3,000 in bonds to build the courthouse, clerk's office, and jail. A tax was levied on real estate to raise the necessary funds. The Board of County Supervisors also issued a bond of \$5,000 in 1892 and another one in 1893 for \$2,000.² After first considering and then rejecting a Colonial Revival-style building, the County settled on plans for the Victorian Romanesque building.³ Two new streets, Grant and Lee Avenues, were constructed for the site. The names were chosen to symbolize unity that had grown out of the tragic events thirty years prior.⁴ The county began constructing its fifth courthouse and nearby matching jail in 1892, designed by the Norfolk and Newport News architecture firm of James C. Teague and Philip T. Marye. The population of Manassas at that time was 1,217.

Work on the courthouse and jail proceeded through 1893. The minutes of the Board of County Supervisors that year state that board members Edwin Nelson, J.B.T. Thornton and W.E. Lipscomb were appointed to ascertain the cost of furniture for the courthouse and the clerk's office and that the Fenterro Metallic Manufacturing Company of New York agreed to furnish the offices for \$754. W.E. Lipscomb, Edwin Nelson, and B.D. Merchant were appointed to provide for heating the new courthouse and "use such old material as they think advisable and buy such as may be necessary". They were also advised to move as much of the old furniture as may be needed from the old courthouse and jail (Brentsville) to the new one and to sell whatever remains. W.N. Lipscomb was requested to insure the courthouse for \$11,000 and the jail for \$1,000. B.D. Merchant was directed to purchase a strike clock for the tower not to exceed \$145. B.D. Merchant and Edwin Nelson were directed to execute a contract for building the water closets in the courthouse and the jail.⁵

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Prince William County Courthouse
Prince William County, VA**

Section 8 Page 7

The last meeting of the Board of County Supervisors in the Brentsville Courthouse was in November of 1893. With its closure, the Brentsville families associated with the business of the County (Sinclair, Nichols, Thornton, Lipscomb, Nelson, and Davis) all moved to Manassas. The court held its first session in the new building on January 1, 1894 and the Board of County Supervisors met on January 6, 1894.⁶ The court and the Board of County Supervisors met on the second floor. The clerk's office, sheriff's office, and assessments office were housed on the first floor. The court was part of the Alexandria and Fairfax Circuit Court. Prince William split from this circuit in 1978 to become the 31st circuit. The building remained in use for the Circuit Court and Clerk of the Court offices until 1984, when a new courthouse was opened nearby. The building sat vacant until the year 2001 when the county completed its restoration for use once again as Clerk of the Court offices. The adjoining jail was demolished in 1986. As the jail was located within the City of Manassas Historic District, the Manassas Architectural Review Board denied the County's request to demolish the building. The county then appealed that decision to the Manassas City Council, which granted the demolition.⁷

The circuit court judge tried cases in the courthouse six times a year. Every other month, local citizens celebrated court day by selling farm supplies and livestock on the courthouse grounds. Reporting to a newspaper, Judge Arthur Sinclair recalled his tenure in the building, beginning as a lawyer in 1939 and then as a circuit court judge from 1950 to 1980. He said he could still picture the spittoon at the end of the defense table. He said the building had its quirks, such as its high ceilings that made it difficult to hear and its cramped jury room. He said that if the jurors got excited, you could stand outside in the hall and hear what they were talking about. Judge Sinclair recalled that during Prohibition there were a number of "whiskey cases", particularly for folks in the southern part of the county residing in Triangle, Occoquan, and Lake Jackson, who "had a taste for bootlegging". There were also a number of cases involving injuries or deaths from the railroad. At the time that interstates 95 and 66 were coming through the county in the 1960s, there were a number of cases involving eminent domain.⁸

Also reporting to a newspaper, Judge Lacey Compton, Sr. recalled how the sheriff's deputies would periodically smash moonshine jars against a rock near the jail. This would take all afternoon and local drunks would arrive, get down on their stomachs, and drink the moonshine as it ran off the rock. Judge Compton and Judge Sinclair did not recall any unusual or sensational cases tried at the courthouse. Judge Compton said he was told about a fist fight between lawyers

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Prince William County Courthouse
Prince William County, VA**

Section 8 Page 8

around the turn-of-the-century that took place in a courtroom. The fight concerned the interpretation of the will of a prominent Manassas citizen named Robert Portner.⁹

On July 21, 1911, the 50th anniversary of the First Battle of Manassas, "The Great Peace Jubilee and Reunion" was held on the courthouse grounds. The dramatic event was attended by thousands, including aging veterans of both the Union and Confederate forces. Colonel Edmund Berkeley, a resident of Prince William who served in the 8th Virginia, welcomed the veterans. Responses were made by General John E. Gilman, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic and by General George W. Gordon, grand commander of the United Confederate Veterans. After a luncheon served at the Henry farm (now part of the Manassas National Battlefield Park), the veterans returned to Manassas where they were addressed by President Taft and Virginia Governor William Hodges Mann. The program included a pageant in which forty-eight young women representing each of the reunited states was presided over by Lady Columbia. Tours of the Battlefield and many other special events were held.¹⁰

George Carr Round, a Union veteran who settled in Manassas, served as the Jubilee Chairman and is given credit for organizing and the overall success of the event. Mr. Round gave the land to the county for construction of the courthouse, and was instrumental in the establishment of the Manassas National Battlefield Park. He married Miss Emily Bennett of Manassas, served on the school board, and the town council, and became a member of the General Assembly of Virginia. Mr. Round is also credited with planting trees in Manassas, including the rows of silver maples along Grant Avenue and on the courthouse lawn.¹¹

The Peace Jubilee was commemorated by a memorial constructed at the corner of Grant and Lee Avenues on the courthouse lawn, which remains. The unveiling ceremony was held on September 30, 1915. Children of the Manassas public schools, 48 young women dressed in white, and Lady Columbia, played by Miss Katie Willcoxon, reenacted the pageant of 1911. Assistant Secretary of War, Henry Breckinridge, representing Woodrow Wilson, gave the keynote address on the subject of national preparedness. Judge J.B.T. Thornton, on behalf of Virginia Governor Stuart, welcomed veterans. The monument was unveiled by Colonel Edmund Berkeley and Lieutenant George Carr Round at the end of the ceremony. It consists of an inscribed bronze tablet atop a block of white granite, flanked by two Civil War-era cannon.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Prince William County Courthouse
Prince William County, VA

Section 8 Page 9

Immediately flanking the tablet are two 400-pound ship's anchors, each with three fathoms of chain. The anchors were a gift from Franklin D. Roosevelt, then Assistant Secretary of the Navy, who sent them from the New York Naval Ship Yard.¹² The inscription on the tablet reads:

In Commemoration of the
MANASSAS NATIONAL JUBILEE OF PEACE
The First Instance in History
Where Survivors of a Great Battle
Met Fifty Years After
And Exchanged Friendly Greetings
At the Place of Actual Combat

Here on July 21, 1911, the Closing Scene Was Enacted
THE TABLEAU OF THE REUNITED STATES
The President, The Governor of Virginia
And Forty Eight Maidens in White Took Part
With 1,000 Veterans of the Blue
The Gray, and 10,000 Citizens of
THE NEW AMERICA

In the years following the Peace Jubilee, the courthouse continued to routinely serve the circuit court and the Board of County Supervisors, remaining relatively unaltered until the 1960s when an interior remodeling drastically changed its appearance. Original finishes were covered with wood paneling, drop ceilings, linoleum tile, and carpeting. Much of this work was related to the installation of air conditioning. The pressed tin ceiling in the large second-floor courtroom was covered by a drop ceiling suspended two feet below. In the center of the drop ceiling was a large recessed saucer with recessed lighting and a circular air vent at its the center. All of these renovations were removed in 2000 for restoration of the interior finishes to their original 1890s appearance.

During the 1960s renovations, portraits of former clerks and judges were found in the attic. These pictures were then hung on the walls along with pictures of contemporary county figures. They now hang in the halls of the new courthouse. Among these are portraits of U.S Senator

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Prince William County Courthouse
Prince William County, VA**

Section 8 Page 10

Eppa Hunton, who served as commonwealth attorney from 1876 to 1883; Judge John Catesby Weedon, a circuit court judge in the late 1880s; and Clerk of Court Edwin Nelson who served from 1887 to 1911.¹³

As part of the 1960s renovations, the weights in the clock tower were removed and the clock was electrified. Since its installation in 1893, the clock had been wound by hand. W.N. Renrich, who died in 1960, was one of the regular winders. Bedgood of Macon, Georgia was hired to service and repair the clock. Bedgood replaced the four wooden clock faces with plexiglass and installed lighting behind them so that the clock faces could be seen at night. The cost of this work was \$1,400.¹⁴ The clock remains lighted today.

In 1976, the Town of Manassas became the City of Manassas, a separate political entity under Virginia law. As part of the transition from town status to city status, the city and county agreed that jurisdiction over the courthouse complex should vest with Prince William County. Under this agreement Prince William County would gain the land and the regulatory authority over 38.8 acres comprising the complex of buildings existing at that time. In addition, the County gained responsibility for provision of public services within the complex. For some reason, this agreement was never formally implemented and largely forgotten for nearly fifteen years. It came to light during a series of disputes between the city and the county over proposed judicial center and jail expansions.¹⁵

Between 1993 and 1997 the city and the county bitterly disagreed over jurisdictional authority of the courthouse complex. The county wanted to keep the courthouse and jail in a centralized location, and the city was concerned that large criminal justice, correctional, and parking structures would adversely impact the Manassas Historic District and downtown revitalization efforts. In 1997, the Virginia Supreme Court upheld a Circuit Court decision confirming the county's jurisdiction over the courthouse complex, thus formally allowing it to become part of Prince William County.¹⁶

Efforts to find a new use for the old courthouse began shortly after the new Prince William Judicial Center opened in 1984. The Prince William Board of County Supervisors moved out of the building in 1986 when the James J. McCoart building opened with new chambers there.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Prince William County Courthouse
Prince William County, VA**

Section 8 Page 11

Prince William County officials first considered using the old courthouse for the Prince William County Historical Commission and a county museum, but also approached the Virginia Court of Appeals and asked it to use the building as its northern Virginia bench. The Court of Appeals regularly met in Richmond, Norfolk, and Salem, but had no permanent northern Virginia home. The Court of Appeals, however, decided to continue using facilities in Fairfax, Arlington, and Alexandria, which generated more cases and to make “appellate justice more available to the people of northern Virginia”, as stated by the court.¹⁷

The Prince William County Arts Federation used the building for brief time beginning in 1988.¹⁸ This was an umbrella organization uniting more than twenty-five artisan member groups. They vacated the building in 1993. It was at that time that serious efforts were begun to restore the building. A non-profit historic preservation activist group, called the Alliance for Revitalization of the Courthouse (ARCH), encouraged the county to restore the deteriorating structure. Spearheaded by Chairman Kathy Sobrio, ARCH rallied citizens and the county on the building’s behalf. The county assembled \$840,000 for the restoration, with \$150,000 each coming from the City of Manassas and the state.¹⁹

The county hired the architecture firm of Dalgliesh, Eichman, Gilpin and Paxton to prepare the restoration drawings and specifications. Architect Doug Gilpin of that firm was the project manager. Mr. Gilpin speculated that like many courthouses built in the South after the Civil War, the building faced south as a tribute to the Confederacy.²⁰ The county also hired Avon of Springfield, Virginia as the general contractor. Lou Ann Purkins, the county architect, oversaw the contracts and contractors and made many of the various major decisions affecting the successful outcome of the project. The building was rededicated on April 26, 2002.

A non-contributing one-story, brick, Colonial Revival-style annex to the Courthouse, constructed in 1975, is located to the west and north sides of the building. The county’s courthouse complex master plan calls for this building to be demolished to restore the square and grounds around the courthouse and to visually connect the building with the historic Bennett School across a public green.²¹

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Prince William County Courthouse
Prince William County, VA

Section 8 Page 12

Endnotes

- ¹ Catherine T. Simmons, *Manassas Virginia 1873–1973* (Manassas, Virginia: REF Typesetting and Publishing, 1986).
- ² Ibid.
- ³ John O. and Katherine T. Peters, *Virginia's Historic Courthouses* (Charlottesville, Virginia: University Press of Virginia, 1995).
- ⁴ Simmons.
- ⁵ *Prince William Board of County Supervisors Minute Books*, 1892-93.
- ⁶ Handwritten Notes of Frances Jones, Architectural Historian, 1980.
- ⁷ *Potomac News*, "Appeals Court May Take Over Historic Courthouse" and "Manassas Council Agrees on Demolition of Six Buildings," July 16, 1986.
- ⁸ *Washington Post*, "Bringing Order to the Court," September 5, 1999.
- ⁹ *Potomac News*, "Group Hopes to Restore Courthouse from Years of Neglect," February 14, 1994.
- ¹⁰ Douglas K. Harvey, Editor, *75th Anniversary of the Manassas National Jubilee of Peace, July 1911, Commemorative Issue* (Manassas, Virginia: REF Typesetting and Publishing, 1986).
- ¹¹ Charles A. Mills, *Echoes of Manassas* (Manassas, Virginia: REF Typesetting and Publishing, 1988).
- ¹² Harvey.
- ¹³ *Potomac News*, "Retired Clerk Still a Presence in Courthouse," August 10, 1992.
- ¹⁴ Handwritten Notes of Frances Jones, Architectural Historian, 1980.
- ¹⁵ Judge Arthur W. Sinclair and others, *Courthouse Commission Final Report to the Prince William Board of County Supervisors*, 2001.
- ¹⁶ Ibid.
- ¹⁷ *Potomac News*, "Prince William Courthouse Backers Want Court Appeals Here," November 17, 1986.
- ¹⁸ Ibid., "The Arts Find a County Home in Manassas," December 21, 1991.
- ¹⁹ *Washington Post*, "Bringing Order to the Court," September 5, 1999.
- ²⁰ *Potomac News*, "Uncovering History, Courthouse Restoration Begins to Reveal 19th-Century Origins," May 9, 1998.
- ²¹ Sinclair.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Prince William County Courthouse
Prince William County, VA

Section 9 Page 13

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Prince William County Courthouse
Prince William County, VA

Section 9 Page 14

“Prince William Courthouse Backers want Court of Appeals Here”, November 17, 1986.

“The Arts Find a County Home in Manassas”, December 21, 1991.

“Retired Clerk Still a Presence in Courthouse”, August 10, 1992.

“Group Hopes to Restore Courthouse from Years of Neglect”, February 14, 1994.

“Group Begins Repairs to Historic Courthouse”, May 28, 1996.

“Uncovering History, Courthouse Restoration Begins to Reveal 19th-Century Origins. May 9, 1998.

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Prince William County Courthouse
Prince William County, VA**

Section 10 Page 15

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is identified as Prince William County Geographic Parcel Information Number (GPIN) #7795-48-9175, located at 9250 Lee Avenue (northwest corner of Lee Avenue and Grant Avenue) in Manassas, Virginia.

The property is 2.3 acres that includes the original Courthouse square.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary is the current holding of Prince William County and contains the Courthouse building, a non-contributing annex building, and a parking area (see PWC-GIS Intranet County Mapper parcel depiction attached). The annex building is planned to be demolished to restore the grounds or square around the courthouse.

Section PHOTOGRAPHS Page 16

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Prince William County Courthouse
Prince William County, VA**

NAME OF PROPERTY: Prince William County Courthouse, File No. 076-5080
LOCATION: Prince William County, Virginia
LOCATION OF NEGATIVES: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
PHOTOGRAPHER: Robert C. Bainbridge
DATE: September, 2002

Photo 1: Courthouse; south elevation, view looking north. Negative No. 20932:17.

Photo 2: Courthouse; east elevation, view looking west. Negative No. 20932:18.

Photo 3: Courthouse; south elevation clock tower, view looking north. Negative 20932:22.

Photo 4: Courthouse; northeast elevation, view looking southwest. Negative 20932:19.

Photo 5: Courthouse; west elevation, view looking east. Negative 20932:20.

Photo 6: Courthouse; second floor windows. Negative 20932:21

Photo 7: Courthouse; interior staircase. Negative 20932:13.

Photo 8: Courthouse; interior west office windows. Negative 20932:14.

Photo 9: Courthouse; interior second-floor courtroom. Negative 20932:15.

Photo 10: Courthouse; interior second-floor hall. Negative 20932:16.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Prince William County Courthouse
Prince William County, VA

¹ *Manassas Virginia 1873 -1973*. Simmons, 1986.

² Ibid.

³ *Virginia's Historic Courthouses*. Peters, 1995.

⁴ *Manassas Virginia 1873 -1973*. Simmons, 1986.

⁵ Prince William Board of County Supervisors Minute Books 1892-93.

⁶ Handwritten Notes of Frances Jones, Architectural Historian, 1980.

⁷ Potomac News, July 16, 1986.

⁸ Washington Post, September 5, 1999.

⁹ Potomac News, February 14, 1994.

¹⁰ *75th Anniversary of the Manassas National Jubilee of Peace, July 1911*. Harvey, 1986.

¹¹ *Echoes of Manassas*. Mills, 1988.

¹² *75th Anniversary of the Manassas National Jubilee of Peace, July 1911*. Harvey, 1986.

¹³ Potomac News. August 10 , 1992.

¹⁴ Handwritten Notes of Frances Jones, Architectural Historian, 1980.

¹⁵ Courthouse Commission Final Report to the Prince William Board of County Supervisors. Sinclair, 2001.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Potomac News, November 17, 1986.

¹⁸ Potomac News, December 21, 1991.

¹⁹ Washington Post, September 5, 1999.

²⁰ Potomac News, May 9, 1998.

²¹ Courthouse Commission Final Report to the Prince William Board of County Supervisors. Sinclair, 2001.